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Inventory
for
Manuscript Collection
MS-458

Captain Zaccheus Allen Log-Books

Inclusive dates 1866-1869

by
Nathan R. Lipfert

March 2012

Number of boxes: 1
Two manuscript volumes
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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Abstract

Allen, Zaccheus, *Captain* (1843 – 1915)
Log-books, 1866-1869
Two volumes, 15 ½" h.
Mate, later ship master of Richmond ME.
Two log-books kept aboard the ship *America* during part of the time Captain Warren Morse commanded her for E. & A. Sewall of Bath ME. Log-books were kept by Mate Zaccheus Allen and document trade between New York, Hamburg, Antwerp, Manila, and the guano islands of Peru.
Bequeathed by Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in 2006.
MS-458, Accession #2006.087.01
Related material in repository
Finding aid in repository, item level control.
Added entries—Persons
Morse, Warren, *Captain*
Added entries—Corporate bodies (including vessels)
America (Ship)
E. & A. Sewall
Added entries—Places
Acapulco (MEX)
Antwerp (BEL)
Callao (PER)
Chinchas Islands (PER)
Guanape Islands (PER)
Hamburg (GER)
Manila (PHI)
New York (NY)
Added entries—Key terms
Ship captains
Shipping
Guano industry

Acquisition

These logs of Zaccheus Allen were bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Captain W. J. Lewis Parker (retired U.S. Coast Guard) of Camden ME in November and December of 2006.

Provenance

Capt. Parker was an extremely knowledgeable collector. He picked up many parts of his collection of maritime papers by purchase from dealers, auctions, or estate sales, and by gifts from relatives of maritime figures. We have found no documentation of how he

acquired this particular group of manuscripts. These logs were found in his study with other similar items, and were part of his maritime library which he bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research.

Physical Condition

Other than the usual surface dirt and minor tears, the manuscripts in this collection are in good condition. Overall, the Capt. Zaccheus Allen log-books are in good condition.

Processing Notes

Originally thought (by staff) to have been kept by Captain Warren Morse, who commanded *America* during this time, the log-books contain several loose documents which carry Zaccheus Allen's name. One note made reference to Capt. Z. Allen of the ship *Charles Dennis*, which Allen commanded in the 1880s (nearly 20 years after these logs were written).

Allen was mate of the ship *America* during the time these logs document, and mates usually kept vessels' official log-books. These particular logs do contain occasional references to the captain being ashore, or coming aboard, as if the mate were writing them. Other records in the repository (MS-22, boxes 234, 235) indicate another man was mate of this vessel until the time (1866) when the logs begin. A July 1866 letter from Capt. Morse in Anjer back to the Sewalls mentions he is well satisfied with Mr. Allen, indicating that this was Allen's first voyage with him. A comparison of handwriting examples from the Captain Zaccheus Allen Papers (MS-203) indicates that it is very likely Allen wrote these logs, and then kept them when the vessel was sold by the Sewalls and he moved to another of their vessels.

Biographical Note

Zaccheus Allen was born September 20, 1843, at Bowdoin ME, the son of James M. and Adaline Allen. His death record says his father was a master mariner, and there was a James Allen in command of Maine vessels in the 1860s and 1880s, but the 1860 census for James Allen and his family records his occupation as truckman. Both parents were born in Bowdoin as well, but the family (he seems to be the only child) moved to Richmond ME by 1860.

In 1870 Zaccheus Allen married Francesca R. Hathorn (sometimes recorded as Frances) at Richmond, and they maintained a house there. However, he does not show up in census records in 1870, 1880, or 1900, evidently being missed because of being at sea. The Allens had two sons, Joseph (who also went to sea but does not seem to have risen beyond the rating of mate) and Thomas M. R. (who became a druggist). His family sometimes accompanied Allen aboard his vessels.

According to later court testimony (see *Live Yankees*, page 100) he became an officer about 1862. He became the chief mate of *America* in 1866, probably joining the ship at New

York in March or April, and stayed as an employee of the Sewall fleet of Bath for nearly the rest of his working life. He first commanded the ship *Humboldt* in 1874, commanded *Eric the Red* in 1876 and lost her in 1880, and became master of the *Harvester* from 1881 to 1885. He left the Sewalls for a bit, to command the Richmond ME ship *Charles Dennis* from 1886 to 1888. Returning to the Sewalls in 1889, he commanded the *Benj. F. Packard* from then until his 1904 retirement, with one short break.

For much of his career, both as mate and as master, he was being accused of harsh treatment, sometimes including murder, of sailors. He never suffered a criminal conviction, but did pay some fines. *The Red Record* of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific recorded the accusations against him in vivid detail, and mainstream newspapers joined in. In command of the *Packard* he became known as Tiger Allen, hired his son Joe as mate, and the vessel acquired an unsavory reputation. For details see *Live Yankees: The Sewalls and their Ships* by W.H. Bunting, 2009.

He retired to Richmond about 1904, and there began a campaign to stop boys playing baseball in the field beside his house. The field was owned by someone else. Eventually he took the case to court and won in 1910; the *Bath Daily Times* ran the story under the heading, "Not a Patriot," evidently referring to baseball being the "national pastime." The games had been going on in the lot for 25 years at that time.

On February 8, 1915, Captain Allen died at home in Richmond, aged 72, of heart disease.

Related Materials

The Museum collection includes a painting of *America* (66.1649) which is believed to have been painted by Captain Morse, and passed down in the family of Zaccheus Allen. Another painting here of the same vessel was done in Antwerp, and may relate to a voyage recorded in these logs. It also contains artifacts related to Capt. Allen and his family and his ships, an Allen manuscript collection (MS-203) and various photographs of the Allens, their house, and the ships. There is also material relating to Capt. Morse, including a photograph, an oil portrait, and the records of the ship *America* in the Sewall shipping records, MS-22, boxes 234 and 235. Morse, interestingly, was married to Caroline, the daughter of the Sewalls' master builder, Johnson Rideout.

Scope and Content Note

Two volumes in printed large-format log-book forms, with detailed daily entries in fairly ornate script, and abbreviated entries when in port. They are standard log entries, including weather, wind direction, courses, speed, leeway, sail handling details, bearings and sightings, crew information, observations, cargo loading and discharging information, and positions. Positions are not complete; latitude only is given.

The fact that longitude is not given is significant. The official logs of the vessel would certainly have included accurate positions with latitude and longitude, for voyages of this length.

Volume A: Log-book of the ship *America* kept by Mate Zaccheus Allen, 15 ½", circa 214 pages with entries, begins Sunday, October 14th, 1866 in Manila, and ends Tuesday May 12th, 1868 on the way from Callao towards Antwerp. The voyages recorded here are from Manila to New York, New York to Acapulco, Acapulco to Callao, Callao to the Chinchas Islands, thence to Callao again to clear, and then towards Antwerp. A last page includes the vessel's draft (fore and aft) when loaded with hemp, cuttings, and sugar at Manila, and draft on an even keel when loaded with 1262 tons of coal (with additional details). The log-book form was printed by Wilbur & Hastings of 40 Fulton Street in New York, and purchased from Crocker, Wood & Co., Ship Chandlers and Grocers, 52 South Street in New York. Loose papers, including personal papers and documents from other ships, were removed and placed in a folder in this box.

Volume B: Log-book of the ship *America* kept by Mate Zaccheus Allen, 15 ½", circa 173 pages with entries, begins Wednesday, May 13th, 1868 on the passage from Callao towards Antwerp , and ends Thursday December 16th, 1869 at Hamburg (GER). The voyages recorded here are from Callao to Antwerp, Antwerp to Callao, Callao to the Guanape Islands (PER), thence to Callao again to clear, and then to Hamburg. Loose papers found in this volume, including personal papers and documents from other ships, were removed and placed in a folder in this box.